

MISSIONS NEWS FROM ALVIN ANDERSON

“There are still many people in villages that have not heard the Gospel, Brother Alvin, but it would take two days walking to get to them. The problem is no workers to go there. No one is willing to give up their comforts to take the Gospel to those people.”

From the fall of 1982 until the spring of 1988, I lived in Southern Belize, Central America where I pastored two churches. After being away for 19 years, I returned to visit those people I had led to the Lord, and pastored. I cannot describe the joy it was to see those that were once children and be introduced to their children.

The opening words of my newsletter were spoken to me by a

pastor friend who is Ketchi Indian (John Shol, 63). As we walked around the city of Punta Gorda, we spoke of past times when we had walked to villages preaching the Word, leading sinners to Christ, and strengthening the saints. One particular village was a four-hour walk. Brother John said, “Now brother, we can drive all the way there.” Then, he went on to say those words in the introduction of my letter.

For several weeks, and while still in Honduras, I had been hearing the Holy Spirit speak to me about the Body of Christ as NOT WILLING, and NOT LIVING to be the witness she is called to be. “You are the salt of earth,” Jesus said. Do not lose your flavor! “You are the light of the world,” do not hide under a basket!! (Matthew 5:13-14)

THE CHALLENGE TO SURRENDER ALL

The words of a popular Christian song translates this way: “It’s not enough to say I would like to; it’s not enough to say I’ll give; it is necessary that I die to my will (to self)!!” I wonder just how popular are the words of Jesus to us today as we read, “If anyone will be my disciple, let him deny himself, take up His cross, and follow me.” (Matt.16:24)

John Elliot, missionary to the remote tribes of South America said these words, “He is no fool who gives up that which he cannot keep, in order to obtain that which he cannot lose!” Let us find our place, beloved, let us live our purpose!! Our reason for being!!!

One of the MAIN questions I am asked here in Belize is: “Do you have a Church in Honduras?” Those of you who know our story know that we do. However, we did not begin a Church until four years after moving to Honduras. Until then I took our converts to already

established congregations. Nevertheless, because of the uniqueness of our ministry, I started a church, and her focus is to raise up laborers to work in the harvest; to teach faithful people who will then teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2)

EVERY believer is called to be a witness. Eighty-five percent (85%) of people that are accepting Christ in our day are between the ages of 6 and 25. Fifty-five percent (55%) of those give their lives to Christ before their 15th birthday. Yet, in Honduras one young person between the ages of 14 and 25 commits suicide every 90 minutes.

A partial reason for my trip to Belize was to look for opportunities to send some of our young men and women from Honduras that have turned from the gangs to Christ. I would like to have them go to Belize to live and be disciplined by organizations such as Youth With a Mission and Teen Challenge.

Since 1995, it has been part of my vision to disciple and strengthen believers all over Central America so that they might know God in the power of His resurrection and make Him known!!

For these reasons we are so privileged that you folks stand beside us as we minister to the children at our daycare and feeding centers; at the trade school; and our Church ministry. Thank you for standing with us in the ministry to kids on the streets along with those within Government Detention and children at risk centers. I am happy to report that all is "growing" well!!

My family and I are grateful that this month (May) the Lord has allowed us to spend our eleventh (11th) year in ministry in Honduras. Thank you for making it possible for us to eat; for our girls to get an education; and for us to minister to such a people where God has called us!!